

telemedicine pilot program to be established between the Springfield Shriners Hospital and the island of Cyprus and a residency program in orthotics and prosthetics started in June. Although it is hard to imagine, the hospital is under consideration for expansion and renovation because of the consistently increasing level of activity at the hospital.

This year, to celebrate the 100th anniversary, the Melha Shriners hosted the Northeast Shrine Association Field Days. Approximately 3,500 Shriners and their families took part in the convention which culminated with a mammoth parade through Springfield. I want to acknowledge the members of the Melha Shrine on their 100th anniversary.

HONORING FRED MCCALL

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 6, 1998*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished North Carolinian, former Campbell University coaching great, Fred McCall. He is an important figure on that legendary Tobacco Road where basketball is considered more a spiritual event than just another team sport. Coach McCall led the Fighting Camels to five state junior college championships in eight years, and through their first eight years at senior level competition. After leaving the head coaching position in 1969, Coach McCall remained at Campbell University as Vice-President for Institutional Advancement for a decade, after which he served as Vice-President for Administration until his retirement in 1986.

During his tenure at the University, Coach McCall started the internationally respected Campbell Basketball School. That school is now the nation's oldest and largest continually running basketball camp, with over a thousand young men enrolled and a coaching staff of over 100, including the legendary UCLA coach, John Wooden.

Coach McCall is not only a coach, teacher, administrator, and mentor, he is also an inventor. He saw a need for a more accurate way to evaluate a player's rebounding ability, so he took the initiative to invent a machine that measures reach, stretch, and jumping ability of the players, while developing strength and control in their fingers, hands, arms, legs, and torso. The McCall Rebounder can be considered nothing less than revolutionary to the teaching of rebounding skills. Most of the nation's top coaches have employed the machine as standard equipment, and it can be found in gymnasiums throughout the country and around the world.

While attending Lenoir-Rhyne College, Fred McCall excelled in three varsity sports. As a member of the basketball team for four years, he was a phenomenal scorer and rebounder who made all-conference for two years. He also played for three years as an end-tackle on the football team and two years as a pitcher on the baseball team.

Coach McCall graduated from Lenoir-Rhyne College in 1948 and later received his master's degree from Peabody College. Coach McCall also proudly served our country for four years during World War II as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

His many honors include being named "Tarheel of the Week" by the Raleigh News and Observer in 1969, and being profiled in the "Who's Who in American Colleges and Schools" for 1948. The great state of North Carolina has inducted him into its Sports Hall of Fame. Then there are the unmentioned tributes that come from the thousands of lives he has touched and the countless young men that consider him a mentor, myself included. I am honored to have played under Coach McCall at Campbell University. His esteemed colleague, John Wooden once remarked that Fred McCall was, "As fine a man as I have ever met." I wholeheartedly agree.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN OBSERVES ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 6, 1998*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, October 7 is the eleventh anniversary of the Sikh Nation's declaration of an independent Khalistan and the founding of the Council of Khalistan to lead the independence movement. I congratulate the Council and its President, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, on this important occasion.

The Sikhs have a history of self-rule. They ruled Punjab from 1765 to 1849 and were recognized by most of the world's major countries. They were promised an independent state at the time of India's independence but were given false promises to keep them within India's artificial borders. Not one single Sikh representative ever signed the Indian constitution to this day, 51 years later. Now the Sikhs seek to reclaim their national status. Dr. Aulakh and his organization have been tireless and effective leaders in that struggle.

In our own Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson wrote that when governments become destructive of their obligation to protect liberty, "it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it." The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, about 60,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, more than 200,000 Christians in Nagaland, and tens of thousands of other minorities, including Dalits—the aboriginal people of South Asia—Assamese, Tamils, and Manipuris, to name just a few. The Indian Supreme Court described the situation in Punjab as "worse than a genocide."

When the Serbian dictator institutes a campaign of "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia or Kosovo, we recognize that this is a clear example of a government which is destroying liberty, not upholding it, yet when India commits genocide against Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and others, many members of this House proudly defend it as "as the world's largest democracy."

Mr. Speaker, the United States is the world's only superpower. It is the beacon of liberty for the world. We must support self-determination for all the occupied nations of South Asia. We must maintain sanctions against India, especially now that Prithvi and Agni missiles, some of which can reach Alaska, are deployed in Punjab.

The time has come to stop all aid and trade to this corrupt government. And we must sup-

port free and fair votes and peaceful talks to bring freedom to South Asia by democratic means. Only when all the nations and peoples of South Asia live in freedom will peace and stability come to that region.

I salute the Council of Khalistan for its work in this noble cause. I thank Dr. Aulakh for reminding us of our obligation to ensure the survival and the success of liberty. I call on my colleagues to listen to the information he brings us and to extend him and his people our full support.

TRIBUTE TO DEPUTY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE RICHARD ROMINGER

**HON. VIC FAZIO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 6, 1998*

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true friend, a dedicated public servant, and one of our nation's leading agricultural policy-makers, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Richard Rominger. Rich is also one of my constituents and a long-time Yolo County farmer. As I prepare to leave office at the end of this Congress, I am confident that the interests of the American farmer will be well protected with Rich Rominger in Washington, D.C.

Rich has had a long and distinguished career in the field of agriculture, beginning with the family farm. The Romingers have been farming in the Winters, California area for nearly 140 years. He is a true California farmer who, along with his brother, sons, and nephews, has raised alfalfa, beans, corn, tomatoes, rice, safflower, sunflowers, wheat, and numerous other crops for consumption and export. Rich took this expertise to Sacramento in 1977 where he headed the Department of Food and Agriculture under Governor Brown. During that period, he also served as the president of the Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture and the Western U.S. Agricultural Trade Association. He was also on the board of directors for the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.

Throughout his career, Rich has received various awards from groups too numerous to mention here. Suffice it to say, they have all been extremely well-deserved. I am proud of my long and productive relationship with Rich. We have both toiled on behalf of ag issues and the farmers of northern California, he more literally than I, for over twenty years. From the Farm Bill of 1996, to expanding overseas markets to addressing critical agricultural research needs, Rich Rominger has been, and will remain, a leader on issues related to the health of our nation's farms and ranches.

His work on behalf of farmland preservation also deserves praise. As a past board member of the American Farmland Trust and now as deputy secretary, Rich has devoted a considerable amount of time to efforts which seek to preserve valuable farmland, particularly in California's Central Valley. This work will protect California's food production as well as an important part of our agricultural heritage.

I am proud to have worked with Rich Rominger throughout my career in Congress.